

**Nuclear Security Summit  
Seoul, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Statement by H.E. Mario Monti,  
Prime Minister of Italy**  
(check against delivery)

*I would like to thank President Lee Myung-bak for his leadership in one of the key sectors for our security.*

*The Republic of Korea is an important international actor, at the forefront on global issues and governance. The recent G20 Summit in Seoul, today's Summit and Seoul's commitment towards a consensual reform of the United Nations bear witness to this.*

*I would like to recall the contribution of the Republic of Korea in support of the non-proliferation regime and the efforts it has undertaken towards the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula. I hope that the Six Party Talks may be swiftly resumed and the North Korean nuclear issue eventually resolved.*

*I express my thanks also to President Obama for the launch of the Nuclear Security Summit exercise: a concrete step towards the prospect, outlined by him in Prague in 2009, of a safer world for all and without nuclear weapons, which Italy strongly supports. One year ago the New START Treaty entered into force: we extend our gratitude to Presidents Obama and Medvedev for their farsightedness in achieving this goal.*

*The Seoul Summit is held at a crucial time, when the threat of nuclear terrorism is coupled with the concern for nuclear accidents caused by natural disasters. It therefore seems highly appropriate that the Summit deal with such a topical issue as the interrelation between nuclear safety and security.*

*In Washington we agreed on the need to confront the challenges of nuclear security, especially the threat of nuclear terrorism and we adopted a Work Plan to that end. In Seoul we will examine the progress achieved so far and indicate new lines of action.*

*In confirming our full adherence to the Communiqué, I would also like to restate Italy's strong commitment to nuclear security. The referendum held in June 2011, which lead to discontinuing our nuclear power programs, has in no way diminished our efforts and commitment towards achieving the highest levels of nuclear security domestically, in Europe and on the global scale.*

*We will thus continue to allocate significant funds for safety and security in our national programmes for the decommissioning of nuclear plants and the management of radioactive waste. We are amongst the largest contributors to international programs in this field.*

*As for the implementation of the commitments undertaken by Italy at the Washington Summit, I would like to mention in particular:*

- the establishment of the International School on Nuclear Security in Trieste, together with the IAEA and the International Centre for Theoretical Physics. The first series of courses was held in April 2011, with 45 participants from 43 countries. The next round is scheduled for May 2012. Given the success of the initiative, we intend to make it permanent. Italy has always stressed the importance of education and training as indispensable tools in the fight against nuclear terrorism, in building up a safe and secure nuclear infrastructure and in promoting a solid international nuclear security culture. Focussing on the human factor, even at a time when financial resources are decreasing, represents a high value added investment.*
- the follow-up of the United States-Italy Agreement in the framework of the “Megaports” initiative against illicit traffic of nuclear material. We are currently installing, in selected Italian harbours, equipment for scanning containers and detecting radioactive materials.*
- the ad hoc arrangements under way with the United States, in the framework of the “Global Threat Reduction Initiative” for the repatriation to the US of Italy’s excess highly-enriched Uranium and Plutonium. We are working closely with the US in view of the next Nuclear Security Summit.*

*The accident at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi power plant, 25 years after Chernobyl, has dramatically raised international attention on the safety of nuclear power plants. Once again we are reminded that the consequences of a nuclear accident know no borders. We must therefore continue to work together to ensure that national sovereignty does not represent an obstacle to the adoption of common rules and stricter international standards, the exchange of information and transparency, the adoption of mandatory review mechanisms, and the recognition of the IAEA central role.*

*Italy is among the countries advocating the strengthening of the relevant international framework including through the introduction of mandatory international review mechanisms.*